

MIKE MANSFIELD FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

FY2013 Final Report – Executive Summary

Pursuant to grant agreement number S-ECAGD-13-GR-150 (BR), concluded between the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation (the Foundation), the Foundation implemented the Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program during the grant period September 10, 2013 – September 30, 2014, as well as the pre-award period June 10, 2013 – September 9, 2013.

FY 2013 coincided with the twentieth anniversary of the Mike Mansfield Fellowship Program (MFP). Named after Mike Mansfield—former U.S. ambassador to Japan, U.S. Senate majority leader, and U.S. congressman from Montana—the MFP remains a unique professional development opportunity for federal employees in the United States to gain proficiency in the Japanese language and practical, firsthand experience working in the Government of Japan (GOJ). As the overwhelming support of the GOJ and various other organizations in Japan demonstrates, the program also holds significant value in the advancement of U.S.-Japan relations. Since the U.S. Congress established the MFP in 1994, the Mansfield Foundation has been administering all facets of the program, including recruitment and selection of MFP Fellows, language training, placement negotiations and monitoring, alumni outreach, and program evaluation.

The fellows participate in the program for one year during which they study the Japanese language and work in various GOJ ministries and agencies, and other public and private sectors. Through their placements in Japan, fellows develop an in-depth knowledge of how the GOJ works, its policymaking processes, and the political, economic, and strategic dimensions of the U.S.-Japan relationship. The program also provides them with an opportunity to create meaningful, professional relationships with their counterparts in the government, business, and academic communities in Japan. After completing the program, Fellows return to federal service for a minimum of two years. It is anticipated that during their continued employment in the federal service, they will apply the knowledge and contacts obtained in Japan to their continued work in U.S. government agencies.

The Mansfield Foundation is especially proud to report the strong alumni fellow presence at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Two members of the eighteenth group of Mansfield Fellows were assigned to positions at the embassy after completing the Fellowship Program during this grant year, bringing the total number of alumni fellows serving at the embassy to six. MFP No. 18 Phil Dobberfuhl (United States Air Force) is now the Director of Air Force Programs for the Mutual Defense Assistance Office (MDAO) at the embassy. MFP No. 18 Yuri Arthur (United States and Foreign Commercial Service) serves as Commercial Attaché. They joined four other alumni Fellows at the embassy: Shelagh Sayers (Legal Attaché); Richard Silver (Deputy Press Attaché); Jim Spillane (Senior FAA Representative for the Pacific Rim) and Christopher Winship (Financial Attaché at the embassy).

During FY 2013, MFP No. 18 Fellows completed their fellowships in Japan, including a seven-week homestay and intensive language study program in Ishikawa Prefecture and ten months of professional placements in various Japanese government agencies and private corporations. Ten federal employees participated in MFP No. 18. Meanwhile, the Foundation also recruited and selected participants in its nineteenth group of fellows (MFP No. 19 Fellows) and began preparing them for their year in Japan during the reporting period.

Using several evaluative instruments, we assessed program implementation through the lenses of outputs and outcomes. Our partnerships with the GOJ, U.S. agencies, Japanese local governments, and private companies strengthened the program and our alumni network. We are delighted that the government of Japan and Ishikawa Prefecture continue to provide a substantial amount of in-kind support, including language training, and study group tours for fellows in Japan. These in-kind contributions enhance the fellowship experience and help fellows deepen their connections to Japan. In addition, the Embassy of Japan and GOJ offices, including the National Personnel Authority and agencies hosting Mansfield Fellows, continue to provide administrative support and mentor Fellows in their offices.